Control of Pollution in major polluting industries

3828. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the 15-point Action Plan, Government have so for initiated any action to control pollution in 17 categories of major polluting industries;

(b) if so, the broad details of the action plan; and

(c) the steps taken against the major polluting industries identified by Government so far particularly in Orissa and other States in the country (State-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A 15-point Action Plan was formulated in consultation with the States for abatement of pollution in the country. The essential elements of the action plan have been incorporated in the Policy Statement for the Abatement of Pollution notified on February 26, 1992. A copy of the Policy Statement has been laid on the Table of the House on March 3, 1992. The broad objective is to integrate environmental and economic aspects in development planning states the preventive aspects in polluton abatement, promote technological inputs for reducing industrial pollutants and increase reliance on public cooperation in securing a clean environment. The State Pollution Control Boards have been directed to ensure compliance of standards by the polluting industries within a time-frame.

(c) Steps taken to control pollution in the States by the major polluting industries include the following:

(i) Effluents and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) A network of ambient air quality and water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits;

(iv) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas;

(v) A scheme is in force to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment facilities;

(vi) Standards on water consumption for major polluting categories of industries have been notified under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;

(vii) Environmental audit for industries have been made mandatory from 1993.

In Orissa, steps have been taken for compliance of the prescribed standards by major polluting units, namely, thermal power plants, a steel plant and fertiliser units.

Wasteland Development Board

3829. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Wasteland Development Board was created;

(b) what are its achievements so far;

(c) the area of land earmarked by the Board since its inception;

(d) for what uses this land has been put to; and

(e) what are the plans to bring it under green cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The National Wastelands Development Board was established on 7th May, 1985.